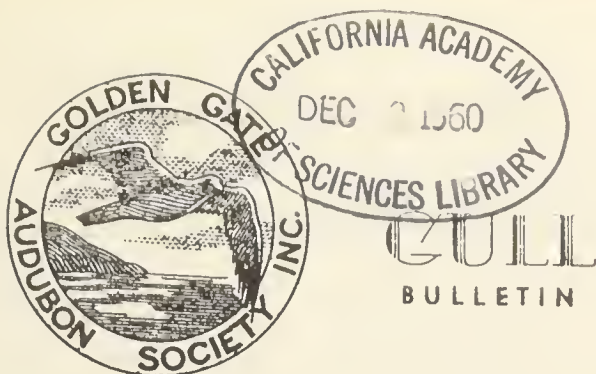


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THE IMPORTANCE OF SANCTUARIES

By John O. Larson, Audubon Warden

Some species of birds have not been critically endangered by our decreasing wilderness and increasing populated areas while others are completely unable to adapt to changing conditions. Therefore it is imperative that suitable land be provided where they might nest and feed in their natural habitat. The desirability, even necessity, of providing bird sanctuaries has been discussed in articles and lectures for many years, and people who are interested in bird conservation are well aware of the importance of supporting the existing sanctuaries and establishing new ones.

Since childhood I have been closely associated with a sanctuary operated by the National Audubon Society. During the nesting season I have seen thousands of birds rise in the dawn to fly to their feeding grounds from an area where some years before merely twenty-six pairs were making their last stand for survival. I have seen these same birds return at dusk to settle down for the night, and, most surely, they sense that in this place they are safe from their natural enemies, as well as their most formidable enemy - man.

On similar sanctuaries, located throughout our country, I am confident other wardens derive the same satisfaction from the knowledge that, in spite of encroaching civilization, there are still a few scattered areas offering havens for birds and other wildlife whose very existence is daily being endangered.

In many instances, the successful acquisition and maintenance of sanctuaries depend greatly upon the cooperation between the conservation organizations and agencies and the local societies and interested individuals.

The South San Francisco Bay Sanctuary, now in its fifth year of operation, is an excellent example of the splendid results obtained through the combined efforts of the various groups of people recognizing the need for providing a place of refuge for the species of birds that were being driven from the vicinity. There has been quite a satisfactory increase in all bird life, particularly the Clapper Rail, the species most needing protection. During the first year, a few Clapper Rails were heard but rarely seen. By the end of the third year, they were no longer an unusual sight. This area which is patrolled during the hunting season has proved an excellent refuge for ducks from the hunters' gunfire. It would appear they soon learn they are protected,

and quickly take advantage of the situation. The sanctuary is yearly accomplishing the purpose for which it was established, and it is one of which all concerned may be justly proud.

OCTOBER TRIP TO THE FARALLON ISLANDS

On Sunday, October 30, about 45 members and friends sailed to the Farallon Islands aboard the Privateer II on a clear, warm day with a fairly smooth ocean. There were not large numbers of shearwaters, but there was a good variety of pelagic birds seen during the day. Mr. Meadows, the skipper, took us about 5 miles west of the Farallon Islands where we did well chumming for birds, for we had 10 Black-footed Albatrosses along side the boat at the same time. We saw about 15 New Zealand Shearwaters during the day, some of these very close to the boat. On the return journey, about 5 miles east of the Farallons, some of us were lucky to see a Pale-footed Shearwater. This is a large dark Shearwater with a very prominent pale pink bill, a bird that is only occasionally recorded off the coast of California.

When we got to the lightship, we got a message that a boat was in trouble off Stinson Beach, and when we got there the boat had sunk and the two passengers were sitting in a small dingy. We had very good looks at an Ashy Petrel here.

The following 47 species were observed during the day: Common, Arctic and Red-throated Loon; Eared and Western Grebe; Black-footed Albatross; Fulmar; Pink-footed, Pale-footed, New Zealand and Sooty Shearwater; Ashy Petrel; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt and Pelagic Cormorant; Black Brant; Pintail; American Wigeon; Shoveler; Greater and Lesser Scaup; White-winged, Surf and Common Scoter; Ruddy Duck; American Coot; Black Oystercatcher; Surfbird; Black Turnstone; Red Phalarope; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Bonaparte and Heermann Gull; Forster Tern; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Ancient Murrelet; Cassin and Rhinoceros Auklet.

GUY MC CASKIE AND RICHARD STALLCUP, Co-leaders

OCTOBER TRIP TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

A brisk north wind greeted the 13 members and guests who met at St. Mary's College on October 15. The day seemed rather cool at first, but as the wind lessened toward noon the sun grew very warm. Humidity was extremely low, and the crackling of leaves and the intermittent gusts of wind made listening to bird calls very difficult. Motion that caught the eye was more likely to be leaves rather than birds.

In spite of the handicaps to hearing and to sight, 44 species were observed, many of them being season firsts for the watchers present. On the wind-ruffled lake were one Ruddy Duck, two Pied-billed Grebes, a Coot, a pair of Mallards ("indiscreet" male) and a Belted Kingfisher which flew back and forth. Two late-comers reported watching pipits and a pair of Wood Ducks on the lake.

Other species tallied during the day included: Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawk; Turkey Vulture; California Quail; Killdeer; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn and Nuttall Woodpecker; Say and Black Phoebe; Scrub and Steller Jay; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick Wren; Hermit and Varied Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Hutton Vireo; Audubon Warbler; Meadowlark; Red-winged and Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; Rufous-sided and Brown

Towhee; Common and Lesser Goldfinch; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrow.

MYRA BROWNE, Leader and ELSIE ROEMER, Historian

OCTOBER TRIP TO TOMALES BAY AND VICINITY

One Tropical Kingbird would have made a good record for the trip to the Pt. Reyes Peninsula on Saturday, October 22. We found three; more than even the most optimistic could have expected. We saw the first--a bird of rather ragged plumage, at the beginning of the trip four miles south of Inverness. The second, in excellent plumage, was at the RCA station, and we studied him through telescopes as he perched on the wire overhead. We saw the third about two miles east of the lighthouse. This species (listed as Couch's Kingbird in your Western Peterson) breeds from S. E. Arizona and southern Texas south to Argentina, and is considered an irregular fall visitor along the California coast.

Tomales Bay did not have much waterfowl yet, but a walk through the densely wooded Jepsen trail quickly showed this year's abundance of Varied Thrushes and Golden-crowned Kinglets. At the lighthouse we spotted four Elegant Terns and had good views of our common birds of the rocky shore.

Later in the day, five cars drove up Inverness Ridge, where we found a half-dozen or so Red Crossbills in the Bishop Pines. They have been reported there since early in 1959. A few of us had a close look at two White-throated Sparrows and two very tame Raccoons with young at Mrs. Grace Miller's feeding trays in Inverness.

The following 125 species were seen or heard during the day: Common Loon; Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Sooty Shearwater; Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt, and Pelagic Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common and Snowy Egret; Black-crowned Night Heron; Mallard; Pintail; American Widgeon; Shoveler; Redhead; Ring-necked Duck; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; White-winged and Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered (1), Marsh, and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; Sora Rail; American Coot; Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Common Snipe; Willet; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Least Sandpiper; Dunlin; Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Bonaparte's, and Heermann's Gull; Forster's and Elegant (4) Tern; Common Murre; Band-tailed Pigeon; Rock and Mourning Dove; Barn, Great Horned, and Burrowing Owl; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy and Downy Woodpecker; Tropical Kingbird (3); Black and Say's Phoebe; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Common Raven; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Red-breasted and Pigmy Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Winter, Bewick's, Long-billed Marsh, and Rock Wren; Robin; Varied and Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Hutton's Vireo; Myrtle, Audubon's and Townsend's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwinged, Tricolored, and Brewer's Blackbird; Purple and House Finch; Pine Siskin; American and Lesser Goldfinch; Red Crossbill; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White crowned, Golden-crowned, White-throated, Fox and Song Sparrow.

MARIE MANS, Leader and R. GUY MC CASKIE, Historian

THE CONSERVATION FRONT: POST-ELECTION THOUGHTS

If someone from the "Conservation Camp" may be pardoned a few post-election observations. . . first of all, let us hope and pray that our new Congress under a new administration may actually accomplish some noteworthy conservation measures. Perhaps the costs--such as would be involved in more aid to local governments in sewage and pollution control--will less often be cited as reason for legislative failures, shelving by committees or presidential vetoes. We must be alert, on the other hand, lest the crash program of government spending for public works which appears to be imminent does not include some completely unjustified projects of damming, wetlands drainage or other spoilation of natural resources and wildlife or fish habitat.

Do you sometimes feel that you didn't make quite enough effort to elect your favorite candidate or to make yourself heard on some of the vital conservation issues which the 86th Congress failed to pass? Well, thanks to our democratic system you can help rectify that by determining to contact your new (and old) representatives in Congress--or Sacramento--in behalf of pending issues as they are brought to your attention. And don't forget some near home: the Golden Gate Parkway, the threatened freeway to Stinson, vanishing and vitally needed park space in Contra Costa and southern Alameda counties. Some phases of the gigantic California Water Plan could carry threats to fish and wildlife, if our conservationists, sportsmen and recreation users do not keep alert.

The highway planners and builders must be watched closely, as they cannot be expected to preserve natural features where extra costs may be involved. The current threat to condemn the beautiful, historic Giles property at Irvington, where we have birded and botanized, is the latest example. From our viewpoint, the needed clover-leaf interchange could better be built anywhere else but over the site of these magnificent trees!

EAST BAY CHRISTMAS COUNT

The annual East Bay Christmas Bird Count will be taken on December 31, 1960, in the various parts of a 15-mile diameter circle. This day will start for some of us at 5:00 (owling) but for most at about 8:00 a.m., ending at dusk.

EVERYBODY able to spend the whole day, or part of it, in an assigned area, either with or under the guidance of a leader, should call one of the group leaders below.

HOUSEWIVES AND STAY-AT-HOMES; Please watch your yards and feeders. If you can devote some of your time keeping a close check on your yard, please call the compiler.

- Group 1 - Shoreline from Pt. Isabel to Bay Bridge, PHYLLIS LINDLEY, TH 8-6821
- Group 2 - Bay Farm Island, Alameda, RICHARD HOLMES, TH 3-4973
- Group 3 - Aboard the Sea Scout Ship "Marlin," S.F. Bay, DAVE NICHOLS, TH 3-5141
- Group 4 - San Pablo Reservoir, Tilden Park to Lake Anza, A. LAURENCE CURL, LA 6-7004
- Group 5 - Hills from Strawberry Canyon to Redwood Regional Park, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
- Group 6 - Lake Merritt, Lakeside Park, Gov't. Island, PAUL COVEL, KE 6-4120

- Group 7 - Mills College, Oakland Parks, HEROLD CONNOR, GL 1-4687
 Group 8 - Sunset View Cemetery, Albany Hill, small Berkeley and Albany Parks, L. R. LEINBACH, LA 6-7649
 Group 9 - Lake Temescal, Claremont Area, ARTHUR MYER, TH 5-3080
 Group 10 - Devil's Punchbowl and Joaquin Miller Park, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 Group 11 - Orinda, Bear Creek Road and adjoining areas, PETER VEITCH, CL 4-2419
 Group 12 - Lafayette, Moraga, St. Mary's College, HARRY ADAMSON, AT 3-2164
 Group 13 - South End of Count Area from San Leandro Reservoir into Grass Valley Park, LEE STALLCUP, LO 9-3185
 Group 14 - Track-down Team for critical species, GUY MC CASKIE and G. W. FOSTER, FI 6-1865

FOOD The Post-Count Dinner--on share-expense basis--will be at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Starting time about 5:30 p. m. Marion Covel and Jean Stallcup will pool their talents to feed the hungry field workers. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME TO THE POST-COUNT DINNER, PLEASE CALL THE COMPILER ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 29, so that we'll know how many to expect.

MARIE MANS, Compiler. TH 8-5186

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD-COUNT

The annual Christmas bird count for the San Francisco area will be taken on Monday, December 26, 1960. This is an all-day event, starting at 8:00 a. m. and lasting until at least 4:00 p. m.

You will note that several more leaders are urgently needed, and all members and friends are invited to contribute as much time as they can spare to aid the leaders of the various groups.

Those able to assist for all or part of the day please call one of the leaders listed below:

- Group 1 - Palace of Fine Arts, VOLUNTEER NEEDED.
 Group 2 - McLaren Park, Mission and Geneva, FRANK ZOGRAFOS, SU 2-6580
 Group 3 - Lands End, Sutro Heights, MRS. LAND, BA 1-7707
 Group 4 - Golden Gate Park, 30th and Fulton, DR. ALBERT BOLES, GL 1-6267
 Group 5 - Golden Gate Park, 10th and Fulton, ERLINE HEVEL, PR 5-6498
 Group 6 - Golden Gate Park, 10th and Fulton, FLORENCE PLYMELL, PR 6-1208
 Group 7 - Lake Merced and Zoo, AILEEN PIERSON, JU 7-4163
 Group 8 - Stern Grove, VOLUNTEER NEEDED
 Group 9 - Seal Rocks and Ocean, FRANCIS WOLCOTT, SK 2-5818
 Group 10 - Presidio at Lombard Gate, LESLIE BARTOW, WE 1-0283
 Group 11 - S. F. Bay, foot Van Ness Avenue, PETER VEITCH, CL 4-2419
 Group 12 - Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands (restricted), L. R. LEINBACH, LA 6-7649
 Group 13 - Smaller city parks and Civic Center, ROBERT R. CHASE, JU 7-4018
 Group 14 - Marin Shoreline and Rodeo Lagoon, ELIZABETH LENNON, ED 2-1641

NOTE that two areas will not be covered unless someone interested in leading a group will phone the compiler. Participants are invited to help the Society by sharing the 50¢ entry fee. Leaders are asked to send their group count to the compiler as soon as possible. Your cooperation will be appreciated by Carlyle Sather, compiler, 1700 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, PL 6-0581

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE BERKELEY AUDUBON OFFICE

BOOKS:

<u>The Forest and the Sea.</u> (Bates) Random House, 1960	\$ 3.95
<u>Hummingbirds.</u> (Greenewalt) Doubleday, 1960	22.50
<u>Journey Into Summer.</u> (Teale) Dodd Mead, 1960	5.95
<u>Living Invertebrates: lower animals</u> (Buchsbaum & Milne) Doubleday, 1960	12.50
<u>My Wilderness.</u> (Douglas) Doubleday, 1960	4.95

RECORDS:

<u>Field Guide to Bird Songs.</u> Two LP records. Includes 156 western birds, from loons to sparrows.	10.95
<u>Now We Know.</u> Tuneful stanzas answering children's questions about the rainbow, thunder, bees' buzz, etc. Columbia LP	4.95

Many other items are available, from binoculars to birdbaths. Your purchases support the nationwide conservation program of the Audubon Society.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Audubon Office in Berkeley will be open on Monday through Friday from 12 until 5, and until Christmas will be open from 10 through 5.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SHOWS IT "KNOWS HOW..." This writer confesses to hearing some very pointed comments regarding our southern neighbors--the large and fairly prosperous Los Angeles Audubon Society--when on past occasions it was found that they had failed to join us in making an annual contribution to the California Condor Sanctuary maintenance fund, or in sending a representative to the annual convention in New York. (It hurts a Westerner's pride... to travel across country to a national conference only to find himself virtually alone from his state... and it doesn't help to sustain our interests, either.)

Anyhow, last time we expressed our feelings to Bill Goodall, he came back with a report that rocked us back on our heels. It seems that this year the Los Angeles Audubon Society, instead of merely appropriating \$100.00 at a Board of Directors meeting like us, circularized its entire membership in behalf of the Condor Fund. In this way they raised some \$400.00... which means, I guess, that we'll have to tip our hats or order them a bouquet!

PAUL F. COVEL, Conservation Chairman

NOTE: To our readers who don't know--the Condor Fund is a fund for the maintenance of the California Condor refuge in Southern California. This vital refuge's importance is well known to all Audubonites. Perhaps we could follow the L. A. A. S. 's example and send a little more money... they can use every bit of it. THE EDITOR.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, JANUARY - MARCH, 1961

Sunday, January 15 - Tomales Bay and Dillon's Beach
 Tuesday, January 17 - Golden Gate Park - Start at Aquarium
 Saturday, January 21 - Lake Merritt and Joaquin Miller Park
 Sunday, February 5 - Richardson Bay and Tiburon
 Thursday, February 9 - Lake Merritt
 Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19 - Thornton area for cranes,
 2 trips
 Saturday, February 25 - San Francisco Zoo and Lake Merced
 Sunday, March 12 - San Andreas and Crystal Springs
 Tuesday, March 14 - Golden Gate Park and Chain of Lakes
 Saturday, March 18 - Tilden Park

Tuesday and Thursday trips have been added to the schedule by popular demand. Public transportation is available for all of them.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

DECEMBER MEETING

The 513th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in San Francisco, Thursday, December 8, 1960, 7:30 p.m., at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum, Roosevelt Way and 16th Street. (Take #43 bus at Market and 14th Street.) Our speaker will be Mr. Carey Baldwin, Director of the San Francisco Zoo, who is an entertaining and amusing speaker on animal antics. He will also show pictures of his recent trip to Africa.

MRS. CECIL EARLE, Program Chairman

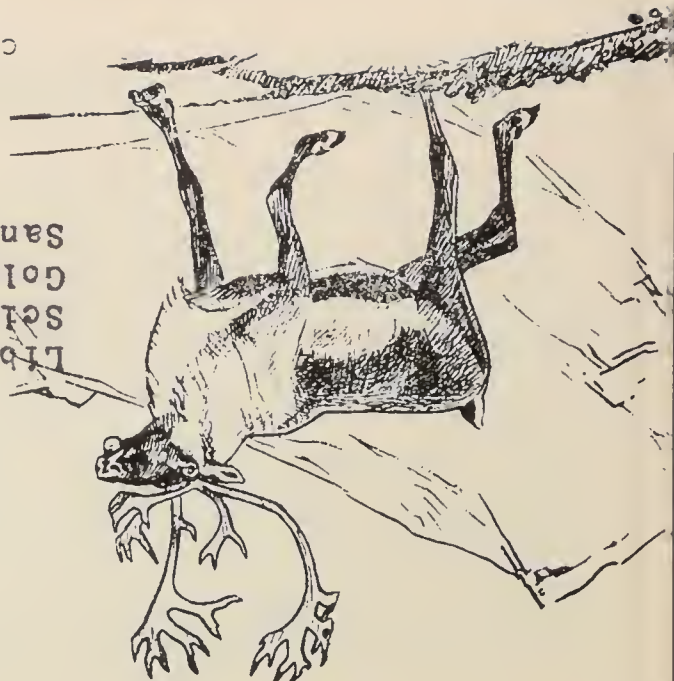
OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD NOTES: Due to limited space we only have room for a couple -- an EMPEROR GOOSE turned up on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on November 12 (Guy McCaskie). Three MC COWN'S LONGSPURS were seen on Nov. 13 between Livermore and Tracy on the old Altamont Pass Road. The birds' tails, the distinguishing mark, were seen very well at 15 feet through 8X binoculars (Richard Stallcup).

TOMALES BAY CHRISTMAS COUNT. The last year's second highest count in the nation will be held on Monday, January 2, 1961. For information call PHYLLIS LINDLEY, TH 8-6821.

WATERFOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP - DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 11, a joint field trip with the Monterey Audubon Society is scheduled, to the Los Baños Waterfowl Management Area and the Merced National Wildlife Management Area. The latter is the resort of the main population of Ross Geese at this season. Sandhill Crane, Whistling Swan, various geese and ducks, gallinule, rail and Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks are likely to be seen. Meet at and be ready to leave Tiny's Coffee Shop in Los Baños, in a caravan, at 9:30 a.m. Los Banos is 110 miles from Oakland via U.S. Route 50 through Tracy and State Route 33. It may also be reached via U.S. Route 101 south from San Jose to Gilroy and State Route 152 eastward over Pacheco Pass. The Merced area will be visited after lunch. It is located at the west end of Athlone and Sandy Mush Road which crosses the Merced - Dos Palos Road 11 miles south of Merced (28 miles from Los Baños). Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope and interested friends. Leader, Carl Sather, PLaza 6-0581. Please note the change in dates from December 3-4 as listed in the June Gull.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman



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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

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